



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

383 Hall of Administration/500 West Temple Street/Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

## MINUTES OF THE 675<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 675<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on August 17, 2006, in Room 372 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those present follows:

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bertrum M. CeDillos, Chair  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Andrew Friedman  
Ann Jackson  
Paul A. Jacobs  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Clifton Albright, Vice Chair  
Carol L. Rose  
William J. Galloway  
Neal S. Millard

#### MEMBERS

Bertrum M. CeDillos  
*Chair*

Nelson L. Atkins  
*Vice Chair*

Clifton Albright  
Andrew Friedman  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Paul A. Jacobs  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Neal S. Millard  
Carol L. Rose  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes

#### **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Lieutenant George Bush, Los Angeles Police Department  
Captain Samuel Dacus, LA County Sheriff Department  
Laura Green, LA County Office of Public Defender  
Michael P. Karsch, City of Los Angeles  
Devallis Rutledge, District Attorney's Office

#### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Dardy Chen, Superior Court  
Bea Dieringer, LA County District Attorney's Office  
Honorable James Endman, Superior Court  
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court

#### **GUESTS**

Gloria Gomez, Director-Jury Services  
Karin Davalos, Commission for Women

#### **STAFF**

Dedie Ward  
Jim Corbett  
Martha Arana

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair CeDillos called the 675<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:29 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Captain Samuel Dacus led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions of the Commissioners, Ex Officio Members, Staff and Guests followed.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair CeDillos welcomed and introduced the newest member appointed to the Commission by Supervisor Burke, Commissioner Paul A. Jacobs.

Chair CeDillos also reported that the 2006 Holiday Gathering for the Commission will be held again at Kendall's Brasserie across from the Hall of Administration.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2006**

On motion of Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Jeffers and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of July 20, 2006 were approved with the following correction:

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#### **Update on Child Care Waiting Rooms**

Commissioner Jackson reported that she has identified four or five other commissions ~~that have expressed an interest in the Child Waiting Room Program. She also reported that the Vice Chair of the Human Relations Commission has given her contact information for community advocates that will assist in disseminating information about the program to increase awareness and participation.~~ **that, based on their mission statements and focus areas might be interested in the JPC's Child Care Waiting Room and Child Custody Exchange Center projects. To that end, she plans to make outreach efforts to each of those commissions identified. So far, she met with Donna Bojarsky, Vice Chair of the Human Relations Commission, who was impressed by the JPC's efforts and who gave her contact information for community advocates that could be helpful in disseminating information about the two programs to increase awareness and participation.**

### **GUEST SPEAKER, GLORIA GOMEZ, DIRECTOR FOR JURY SERVICES PRESENTATION ON CURRENT ISSUES WITHIN JURY SYSTEM**

Chair CeDillos welcomed and introduced Ms. Gloria Gomez, who has been the Director of Juror Services for the Superior Court since 1992. Ms. Gomez reported that Los Angeles County has the largest jury system in the United States: 3 to 5 million jurors are called for service each year; 7,000 to 10,000 jurors are assigned to jury duty each day; and jurors are provided to over 600 trial courts per day from 37 jury assembly rooms throughout the County. The master list for prospective jurors is compiled from names provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Registrar of Voters.

According to the Jury System Historical Fact Sheet, distributed by Ms. Gomez, for Fiscal Year 2005-2006, 2.8 million jury summons were mailed out; 1.3 million citizens responded to the summons; and 996,153 citizens did not respond.

In an effort to make jury service more convenient and alleviate the problem of potential jurors refusing to appear for jury duty, the Court has implemented several measures to shorten the time a person is required to serve. Such measures include the One Day/One Trial Program and the Call-In System, which allows jurors to call in for a period of five days to determine if they are needed to report to Court. Policies have also been established to ensure that jurors' time is used more productively while serving on jury duty, a practice that has resulted in increased numbers of people showing up and actually appointed to a panel.

Jury Services is also evaluating for improvements its Excused Permanently Program and Sanctions Program. The Sanctions Program deals with people summoned for jury duty that refuse to respond. Each month, nearly 10,000 notices are mailed out to individuals that do not respond to summons. In addition, court judges are working to impose higher sanctions for those individuals that do not have a legitimate excuse for not serving on jury duty.

Following a question and answer forum, Chair CeDillos thanked Gloria Gomez for her informative presentation.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2006-2007**

Jim Corbett, Assistant Division Chief, opened nominations from the floor for the Offices of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission for 2006-2007. Commissioner Jeffers nominated Chair CeDillos to serve another term as Chair, and Commissioner Atkins to serve as Vice-Chair. Nominations from the floor were then closed.

On motion of Commissioner Jeffers, seconded by Commissioner Friedman, and unanimously carried, Bertrum CeDillos was re-elected as Chair and Nelson L. Atkins was elected as Vice-Chair of the Commission for 2006-2007.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

#### **Update on Child Care Waiting Rooms**

Commissioner Jackson introduced Ms. Karin Davalos, former President of the Los Angeles Commission for Women, who presented the Commission with a \$500 check for the Donation Trust Fund to assist with the Child Waiting Room Program.

Ms. Davalos announced that the Commission for Women will host its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run/Walk and Health Expo for Girls-at-risk, on Saturday, September 16, 2006 at the Pasadena Rose Bowl, and encouraged everyone to participate.

Commissioner Jackson reported that Commissioner Rose represented the JPC at the Los Angeles Superior Court's 20,000<sup>th</sup> Child Visit to Kids Place event that took place on August 11, 2006 at the Long Beach Courthouse.

#### Child Custody Exchange Update

Peggy Shuttleworth, who was unable to attend the meeting, provided the following written update on the status of the Safe Child Custody Exchange (SCCE) Subcommittee:

A Press Conference for the Safe Child Custody Exchange Service is scheduled for Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the Sheriff's Headquarters located at 4700 Ramona Blvd. in Monterey Park. To date confirmed to attend are Sherriff Baca, Supervisor Burke, the Judicial Procedures Commission, Wings of Faith and Bienvenidos, program facilitators, representatives from the District Attorney's Office, and representatives from Superior Court. Confirmation of Mayor Antonovich is still pending.

Bea Dieringer added the following:

- The Temple City Sheriff's Station is facilitating approximately 121 exchanges per month; and the Carson Sheriff's Station approximately 92.
- The Exchange Program brochures are now available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese.
- The Committee would like to expand the program to other Sheriff's stations as well as the Los Angeles Police Department.
- The Committee is working with the Courts to include language within Court Orders requiring participation in the exchange program by estranged families.
- The next Committee meeting is September 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Update on Police Overtime

Lieutenant Bush reported that the Overtime Reduction program which was initiated in the City Attorney's Witness Detail Division, has been very successful since it began in 2004. This program has saved the court approximately \$6 million in overtime costs. The program is being considered for a 2006 Productivity and Quality Award.

The program was also expanded to the District Attorney's Office this year and has been going well. Officers working in the Courts check on the status of cases then notify officers waiting to appear in court on the disposition of the cases. Since February 2006, this program has too saved this department approximately \$400,000 in overtime costs.

**MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED  
ON A FUTURE AGENDA)**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the 675<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Judicial Procedures Commission adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Judicial Procedures Commission is scheduled for September 21, 2006.